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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 5-11 and 23-40 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, Applicants cancel claims 41-44.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 5-11 and 23-40 are allowed.

Claims 41-44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Minakuchi et al. (U.S. 5,844,547).

Applicants have canceled claims 41-44. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 41-44 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Minakuchi et al. is moot.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 5-11 and 23-40 are allowable, as indicated by the Examiner.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are solicited.

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The Commissioner is authorized to charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-1353.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: February 8, 2006


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